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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,930	11/15/2001	Rene Weber	ME-44	5118

7590 10/31/2003
Friedrich Kueffner
Suite 910
317 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

EXAMINER

GIBSON, RANDY W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/002,930	WEBER, RENE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Randy W. Gibson	2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 22-28, 31-34, 36-38, 40, 47 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15-21, 29, 33, 35, 39, 41-46, 48 and 49 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 13, 20-22, and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities:
in claim 13, the phrases "the arcuate loop" (line 2) and "the weight-placement members" (line 3) lack positive antecedent basis; in claim 20, the phrase the weight-placement members" (line 2) lacks positive antecedent basis; in claim 21, the phrase the weight-placement members" (line 2) lacks positive antecedent basis; in claim 22 the phrase the weight-placement members" (line 2) lacks positive antecedent basis; in claim 25 the phrase the weight-placement members" (line 2) lacks positive antecedent basis.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Montgomery (US # 186,149). Montgomery discloses the claimed invention including a balance with an arrangement of arms (a) which bend in the lateral direction (b), and a load receiver (A) which slopes toward a depression in the middle (Fig.1).

4. Claims 1, 4, 6-9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright (US # 1,080,398). Wright discloses the claimed invention including a balance with an arrangement of arms (f), a load receiver (c) which slopes toward a depression in the middle (Fig.s 1-3), and a freely suspended load receiver frame (a).

5. Claims 1-3 and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheetz (US # 3,092,196). Sheetz discloses the claimed invention including a load receiver (12) which slopes toward a depression (36) in the middle in a stepped slope (Fig. 1) and which is supported by an arrangement of arms (34,37).

6. Claims 12-14, 22, 25-28, 30-32, 34, 36-38, 40, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tas (US # 5,306,877). See Figure 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Montgomery (US # 186,149). Montgomery discloses the claimed invention, as discussed *supra*, except for the load receiver (A) appears to be made from metal

instead of plastic. However, the examiner takes official notice that plastic was a well known material, that it was known to make scoops and scale pans from plastic, and therefore it would have been obvious to the ordinary practitioner to make the load receiver of Montgomery from plastic based on its known suitability for its intended use. See MPEP §§ 2144.06 & 2144.07.

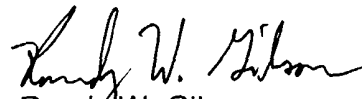
Conclusion

8. Claims 15-21, 29, 33, 35, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, and 49 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if amended to overcome the other objections listed *supra*.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Randy W. Gibson whose telephone number is (703) 308-1765. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri., 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S Martin can be reached on (703) 308-3121. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-5115.


Randy W. Gibson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2841